

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent-catheter arrangement for placing a stent into a vessel, the stent-catheter arrangement comprising:

a catheter including an expandable balloon having a first end ~~with a first fully expandable section~~ essentially tubular section expandable to engage an interior vessel wall, a second end ~~with a second fully expandable section~~ essentially tubular section expandable to engage the interior vessel wall, and ~~a~~ an essentially tubular segment of reduced expandability in comparison with said first and second fully expandable essentially tubular sections, said essentially tubular segment of reduced expandability being provided between said first and second ends essentially tubular sections, each of said first and the second essentially tubular sections being connected to said segment of reduced expandability by a tapered section; and

an essentially tubular stent disposed on said expandable balloon, said stent including a liquid impermeable cover,

said stent being dimensioned and configured to extend over said essentially tubular segment of reduced expandability and portions of said first and second fully expandable ~~expandable~~ essentially tubular sections,

said balloon and said stent being configured and

arranged to expand said stent to form first and second ~~expanded~~
essentially tubular fixing portions and ~~a throttlean~~ essentially
tubular portion coupled to said first and second expanded fixing
portions by first and second tapering portions of predetermined
lengths and angles, ~~respectively, said throttle segment of said~~
~~stent~~

said essentially tubular portion having a smaller
outer radial width than said first and second expanded fixing
portions when said balloon is fully expanded so that said
~~throttle portion~~ essentially tubular portion is radially spaced
from ~~an the~~ the interior wall of ~~a the~~ vessel in which said stent is
~~to be installed.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter
arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said cover is a foil
or a coating.

3. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter
arrangement according to claim 2, wherein said foil or said
coating is made from body-tolerated material.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter
arrangement according to claim 2, wherein said foil or said
coating consists of biological material, of polymer material, of
metallic material, ceramic material or elastomer material.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said segment of reduced expandability is formed of stiffened balloon material.

11.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein said essentially tubular segment of said balloon of said reduced expandability is formed by a stiffening element applied to expandable material of said balloon.

14.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said essentially tubular section of said balloon of said reduced expandability is produced by reducing the expandability of balloon material from said essentially tubular section during balloon production.

17.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the foil or the coating comprises poly-tetra-fluoro-ethylene.

22. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the stiffening element is integrated into the balloon material.

23. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter

arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the stiffening element is applied to the balloon material by a secondary process.

24. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the secondary process is an adhesive bonding process.